

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29, 1998  
MAG Offices, Mesquite Room  
302 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale, Chairman  
Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Vice Chairman  
Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler

Mayor Dallas Gant, Wickenburg  
\*Mayor Skip Rimsza

\*not present

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 a.m. by Chairman Elaine Scruggs.

2. Approval of the February 25 and April 9, 1998 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Giuliano moved, Mayor Tibshraeny seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 25 and April 9, 1998 meeting minutes.

3. Legislative Update

James Bourey discussed HB 2564 and SB 1209. HB 2564 would remove the decision-making authority from MAG for the regional sales tax-funded freeway system. He noted that on April 21, 1998 this bill was included in a strike everything amendment to SB 1209. The strike everything amendment passed the House Transportation Committee. Mr. Bourey reported that HB 1209 also includes the reauthorization of ADOT. At the time of this meeting, the bill awaited action on the House floor.

Mr. Bourey distributed two maps showing the 1996 MAG Freeway Plan and the 1994 Governor's Freeway Plan. He noted that the purpose of displaying both maps was to demonstrate how the unfunded freeways in the Governor's Plan were funded in the MAGPlan.

Mayor Brown reported on a recent meeting with Representative Jeff Groscost, Speaker of the Arizona House of Representative. Mayor Brown noted that they discussed the status of HB 2564 which would remove the freeway decision making authority from MAG for the sales tax funded freeway system. Mayor Brown mentioned that the meeting went well. Chairman Scruggs asked what some of the concerns are that the Legislators are expressing regarding MAG. Mayor Brown indicated that the weighted voting issue was mentioned.

Mayor Brown stated that several issues in the East Valley are important to Speaker Groscost, including the completion of the HOV lanes and an interchange at Williams Gateway Airport. Also that the

priorities adopted by MAG continue in their present order. The members of the Executive Committee discussed how maintaining the order of the priorities was one of the guiding principles in the adoption of the priorities.

Mayor Brown noted that everyone involved has expectations of more funding in the future and all projects will be accelerated. He stated that Jeff Martin will stay on top of this issue.

Mr. Bourey discussed HB 2565 which diverts expected increases in the Arizona Department of Transportation's Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and exchanges it for state Vehicle License Tax funds to provide for transit projects. He asked Dennis Smith to discuss how this proposed legislation could affect the MAG process.

Dennis Smith stated that HB 2565 was a bill with good intentions, but may have an impact on another good project, the construction of HOV lanes in this region. He noted that the ISTEA planning process was jointly agreed to by ADOT, MAG and the RPTA. According to the ISTEA planning regulations, MAG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, working with transit interests in this region is responsible for working with ADOT to plan for ADOT's federal expenditures in this area.

He stated that MAG, working with the RPTA, has forwarded priorities to ADOT to build the HOV lanes in this region. The MAG HOV plan is contingent upon increases being received in the ADOT Highway User Revenue Fund and increases in ADOT federal funds. He noted that these priorities and funding expectations are documented in the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan that was approved by the Regional Council. HB 2565 would divert some of ADOT's additional ISTEA funds and exchange them for Vehicle License Tax funds. These funds would then be used for transit. In essence this would be involving the legislature in the distribution of ISTEA funds that are regionally planned through the MAG process. He stated that the issue is not whether funding for transit has merit, the issue is whether it is good public policy to have the legislature allocating ISTEA funds.

Mayor Giuliano stated that he agrees with the public policy issue. He asked if there was a way this bill, if approved, could still be included in the MAG policy process, perhaps through an intergovernmental agreement between the RPTA and MAG.

Ken Driggs stated that Vehicle License Tax money comes to the region on a population basis. He noted that under the current process MAG receives only 19% of ADOT's discretionary funds. Under this process, MAG would receive 60% of the transit funds. Mr. Driggs stated that he feels there is more leverage to this plan. ADOT is not required to fill the gap in funds. He noted that public policy issues could be resolved by working together. Mr. Driggs stated that this is a great step in the right direction and that no projects will be jeopardized.

Chairman Scruggs questioned why MAG wasn't informed about this bill earlier. She expressed her concern about being brought into the discussion at such a late date.

Mr. Smith commented that there may be a new development in how the ADOT federal funds are programmed that may impact transit. He mentioned that in the report on the recently completed Joint Certification Review of the MAG planning process, conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, there will be a finding regarding the ADOT programming

process. The finding will be for ADOT to provide a funding estimate of funds for the Region as prescribed by ISTEA. This funding estimate would allow MAG, working with the RPTA and ADOT to plan for the flexing of ISTEA funds for transit.

Mr. Bourey stated that this item was for information by the Executive Committee and no action is being requested.

4. Apache Junction Requested for Representation on MAG Boards

Mr. Bourey stated that the City of Apache Junction is requesting MAG to consider extending formal representation to the City of Apache Junction to serve on MAG boards. He noted they offered to make a presentation to the Regional Council regarding this request. Mr. Bourey reported that a portion of Apache Junction is currently included in the MAG Transportation Improvement Program because it is part of the urbanized area.

Mr. Bourey noted that Apache Junction has significant involvement with the region such as 9-1-1, the TIP, PM-10 nonattainment area and a potential air quality Area A Expansion. He commented that in checking with our General Counsel, La Mar Shelley, it appears that the MAG Articles of Incorporation would not need to be modified. However, more clarification is needed in the By-laws. Mr. Bourey stated there are also issues on dues and voting.

Chairman Scruggs suggested that the Executive Committee have more time to review this issue. Mayor Giuliano stated possibly creating another status for MAG member agencies.

The Executive Committee agreed to review this request.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary